

Senate Resolution 117 - Introduced

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 117

BY HANCOCK, DOTZLER, DANIELSON, DVORSKY, BOWMAN,
WILHELM, SODDERS, RAGAN, JOCHUM, HATCH, MATHIS,
QUIRMBACH, BEALL, SCHOENJAHN, COURTNEY, GRONSTAL,
FRAISE, DEARDEN, HORN, ZAUN, BEHN, SORENSON,
ANDERSON, BERTRAND, ERNST, BOETTGER, BACON, BARTZ,
JOHNSON, WARD, KAPUCIAN, HAMERLINCK, and KIBBIE

1 A Resolution urging Congress and the President of the
2 United States to protect Iowa's Air National Guard
3 units from additional budget cuts.

4 WHEREAS, state militias, now known as the national
5 guard, have been a bulwark of this nation's military
6 defense system since 1776; and

7 WHEREAS, since 1941, the Iowa Air National Guard has
8 been an integral part of our nation's defense and our
9 state's emergency response system; and

10 WHEREAS, defense budget cuts ranging from \$450
11 billion up to \$1 trillion over the next decade will
12 force each branch of the military service to reexamine
13 its balance of forces in the active duty, guard, and
14 reserve branches; and

15 WHEREAS, the United States Air Force has announced
16 it wants to remove 21 F-16 fighter jets of the 132nd
17 Fighter Wing from the Des Moines Air National Guard
18 base to meet these budget cuts, eliminating hundreds
19 of Iowa jobs; and

20 WHEREAS, over the last 68 years, the 132nd Fighter
21 Wing has participated in numerous actions including
22 World War II, the Korean Conflict, and many of the
23 support functions of Desert Shield/Desert Storm,

1 Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom; and

2 WHEREAS, the 132nd Fighter Wing has received
3 numerous awards, including eight Air Force Outstanding
4 Unit Awards, and has participated in exercises and
5 deployments worldwide; and

6 WHEREAS, the Iowa Senate supports a defense budget
7 based on national security strategy; and

8 WHEREAS, the Air Force's budget request targets
9 our nation's most cost-effective flying units based
10 upon questionable logic and lacking evidence as to
11 how the budget request supports the national security
12 strategy or the United States Department of Defense's
13 priorities; and

14 WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Review of the Future Role
15 of the Reserve Component chartered by then Secretary
16 of Defense Gates in April 2011 provides a compelling
17 analysis regarding the future role of the Reserve
18 Component and states that "[w]hen rebalancing the
19 force to meet future national security challenges,
20 the...Reserve should be a 'force of first choice'...
21 owing to their overall cost effectiveness and the skill
22 sets that they can provide"; and

23 WHEREAS, it is clear that the Air Force did not
24 conduct a detailed or business case analysis before
25 making its decision; NOW THEREFORE,

26 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That the Senate urges
27 the President of the United States, the United States
28 Congress, and the United States Secretary of Defense,
29 to protect the Iowa Air National Guard from any future
30 reductions or other budget cuts; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Congressional Armed
2 Services Committees should require the Air Force to
3 present a detailed analysis supporting its course of
4 action; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an official copy of
6 this resolution be transmitted to the President of the
7 United States, the United States Secretary of Defense,
8 and to members of the Iowa congressional delegation.